

CASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Doordarshan endeavors to telecast high quality programs drawn upon the deeper cultural, philosophic and spiritual contents of all religions.

### **Operational Efficiency of Aircrafts**

5226. SHRI ANBARASU ERA, Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the aircraft run late; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken to improve the operational efficiency?

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Irrigation Projects In Private Sector**

5227. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private companies in major and medium irrigation projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for privatisation of major and medium irrigation projects which are capital intensive. But the work of maintenance of system and distribution of water at the tertiary level and recovery of water-rates is proposed to be entrusted to the water users associations and cooperatives.

### **Private Equity Partner for IISCO**

5228. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Business Standard dated February 25, 1992 regarding private equity partner for IISCO;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the massive iron ore deposits in Chiria hill is taken into consideration while finalising the privatisation deal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While clearing the proposal on Modernisation of Burnpur Steel Works in December, 1991, the Public Investment Board had directed the Ministry of Steel to fully explore the possibilities of private participation in Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO). Steel Authority of India Limited have engaged SBI-Capital Markets Ltd. for completing this exercise. Their report is expected to be received soon. After the report is examined, appropriate recommendations will be made to the Government.

(c) and (d): SAIL have kept Chittra Iron ore Deposits outside the purview of the ongoing exploration of possibilities of private participation in IISCO.

[Translation]

### **Kahalgaon Power Project**

5229. SHRI YASHWANT RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER AND MINES

CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have to bear the losses worth crores of rupees due to non-completion of Kahalgaon power project in time;

(b) if so, the initial time schedule thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-completion of this project so far; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALAP NATH RAI): (a) Delay in completion of any project could result in cost overruns resulting from price escalation and exchange rate variation for the period of delay depending on the terms of the contract and source of supply of materials. The construction of Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project (4x210 MW) has been affected by delay in the supplies, variation in exchange rate of Indian rupee vis-a-vis major foreign currencies, price escalation in respect of uncompleted portion of supplies/works.

(b) Initial time schedule for completion of the project was January, 1993. This was based on the commissioning schedule of 48 months from July, 1987 (the date of signing of main plant contract with M/s. TECHNOFROMEXPORT, USSR), for the first unit and subsequent units at interval of six months each thereafter.

(c) The completion of the project has been delayed mainly because of the following reasons:-

(i) Delay in supplied from earshwhile USSR.

(ii) Non-sequential supplies.

(iii) Industrial relations problems.

(d) The completion of the project is now scheduled for 1994.

[English]

**Tourists Visited Ladakh During 1991-92**

5230. SHRI GURDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ladakh is emerging as the major tourist centre in J & K;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of tourists visited Ladakh in 1991-92; and

(d) whether Government propose to set up alternative route for visiting Ladakh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Ladakh is increasingly becoming popular with the tourists. However, the relevant statistics are not available.

(d) and (e) Steps are being taken for the development of Kulu-Manali Leh route in coordination with the respective State Government.

**Joint Deep Sea Fishing Venture with  
Sovles Union**

5231. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:  
SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: